

To: Federal Communications Commission

These comments are in support of LOCAL cable franchising, (NPRM05-311).

Community Television of Knoxville operates the public, government, & educational community access television stations that have served residents of the City of Knoxville and Knox County Tennessee for 30 years. CTV operates two channels - one for Public & Government Access (CTV) and one for Educational Access (The WISE Channel). Both channels operate 24 hours per day – 7 days per week.

Currently, there are two local cable franchises - Comcast and Knology. Each pays a 5% of franchise fee to the City of Knoxville and Knox County. The franchise agreements also provide direct operating and annual capital replacement funds for CTV (over and above the 5% franchise fee). Both, the operating and capital replacement funds, automatically increase by 5% each year.

During the past few years, thousands of volunteer community producers have enthusiastically utilized the facilities & services at CTV to produce more than 16,000 different programs (amounting to more than 55,000 hours of community programming) to reach the local community and their constituents.

Community Television of Knoxville provides:

- Gavel-to-gavel coverage of local government meetings & hearings; educational governance proceedings; state legislative sessions & hearings; and other select local & state government proceedings
- Coverage of local political events, including candidate platform statements; candidate debates during each campaign season; and issue-oriented talk shows
- Coverage of community planning forums, town hall meetings, and neighborhood board meetings
- Production and media literacy training for residents and neighborhood based community organizations, including access to production facilities & equipment (studios, portable cameras, editing suites, etc.)
- Community-produced programming pertaining to a wide variety of special interests, including: the arts; community affairs; community resources; cultural promotion; differently-abled citizens; environmental issues; healthy living; municipal/political issues; religious & spiritual topics; sports & recreation; travel
- Educational programming pertaining to curriculum based subjects, including: foreign language, mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, art, general education, and local school programs
- An interactive electronic bulletin board allowing residents to use their telephone to select and view specific information pertaining to job opportunities and community services on their TV screen
- A Community Events Calendar (updated daily) that promotes local events sponsored by qualified non-profit and civic organizations

For 30 years local franchises have been the foundation of Community Television of Knoxville. The local franchising process has worked well for the citizens of the City of Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Vogel
General Manager
Community Television of Knoxville
912 S. Gay St. Suite 600
Knoxville, TN 37902
(865) 215-4350